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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,116	11/13/2001	Jurgen Kaufmann	089468-000000US	1229
20350	7590	12/16/2003		
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834				
EXAMINER ROSENBERGER, RICHARD A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2877				

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,116

Applicant(s)

KAUFMANN, JURGEN

Examiner

Richard A Rosenberger

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 0302
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

1. Claims 1-27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/054,516 and claims 1-39 of copending Application No. 10/054,119. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the three applications are all directed to the same general invention, a gas permeable probe. It is unclear what the distinctions among the claimed subject matter in these three applications is intended to be. The same subject matter appears to be claimed in various degrees across the applications. For example, the independent claims 1 and 32 in 10/054,119 claims a bellows, which is also claimed in claims 28 of 10/054,116.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, and 17-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baskins (US 4,549,080).

Baskins shows the claimed elongate hollow structure, with the claimed mounting structure, support member, connecting structure, optical window (22), gas filter, and reflector (21) that returns light to the first end of the hollow structure. Baskins does not teach that the optical window (22) and/or retroreflector are "releasably mounted". It would have been obvious to mount these elements in a manner that they could be easily removed and replaced so if they were to become damaged in use they could be replaced with minimal downtime and expense. Providing a protective covering over the mirror to protect it would have been obvious; protective coverings are well-known in the art. Using threaded fasteners, such as screws, to mount the elements would have been obvious, such fasteners are common. Having the window (22) mounted in an appropriately shaped mounting structure, such as a ring for a circular window, would have been obvious. Sealing the windows with appropriate seals would have been obvious in order to keep the gases being measured from entering the device itself from the measurement area. Baskins teaches heating the arrangement (column 8, lines 38-41).

4. Claims 5-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baskins et al (US 4,549,080) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Wieboldt et al (US 4,914,297).

Wieboldt et al shows that it is known to use springs to mount the optical elements in similar gas measuring arrangements; see figure 2 of Wieboldt et al for

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example. It would have been obvious to use similar mounts including springs in a system such as shown by Baskins to obtain the benefits thereof.

5. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baskins et al (US 4,549,080) as applied to claim 28 above, and further in view of Shu-Ti Lee et al (US 4,684,805) and Bragg et al (US 4,749,276).

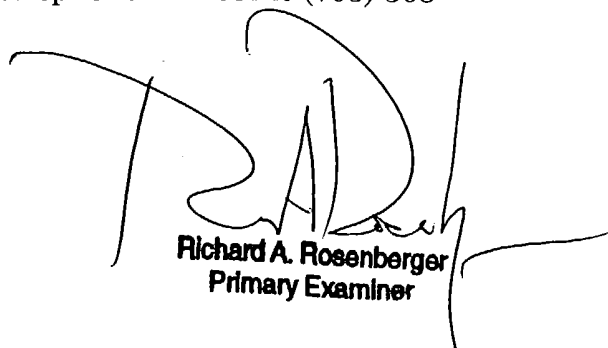
The Baskins et al reference does not show including a bellows in the structure. It is known in the art to include a bellows in such structures; see the bellows 38 in Shu-Ti Lee et al, which teaches it provides for adjustability in path length (column 3, lines 40-43) and the bellows mentioned in Bragg et al (column 5, lines 16-17), which teaches that it provides for adjustability of the mirror position. It would have been obvious to provide such a bellows in an instrument such as shown by Baskins to achieve the sort of adjustability taught by the references.

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (15 November 1989). The fax number is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. A. Rosenberger whose telephone number is (703) 308-4804.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

R. A. Rosenberger
28 November 2003



Richard A. Rosenberger
Primary Examiner